

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated June 1, 2006.

Applicant is appreciative of Examiner's comments regarding the allowability of claims 7 and 8 based upon the inclusion of the subject matter recited in any associated base claim and any intervening claims, and the allowance of claims 12 and 15-23. As such, new independent claim 24 has been added and includes the subject matter of original independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 3 and 5-7. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 have been canceled solely to expedite prosecution of the instant application. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 24. Accordingly, claims 4, 8, 12 and 15-24 are presently pending in this application. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added, and based upon the Examiner's comments regarding the allowability of claims 7 and 8 and the amendment made herein, as well as the allowance of claims 12 and 15-23, claims 4, 8, 12, and 15-24 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the specification and claims are in proper form and clearly define patentable subject matter with respect to the prior art. If there are any additional fees or refunds required, the Commissioner is directed to charge or debit Deposit Account No. 13-2855 of Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP.

Dated: October 31, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
By _____
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